commercial banks regarding lending to the priority sector which include 'Professionals and Self-employed persons' stipulate norms regarding margin, security, interest rates and the types of borrowers covered under category of priority sectors.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the professionals and self-employed persons identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans include Medical Practitioners, Dentists, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Lawyers, or Solicitors, Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Construction Contractors or Management Consultants or a person trained in any other art or craft who holds either a degree or diploma from any institution established, aided or recognised by the Government or a person who is considered by the bank as technically qualified or skilled in the field in which he is employed.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that all loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000 are to be disposed of within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000 within 8 to 9 weeks.

(d) Banks are required to satisfy themselves about the proposals before financing these professionals in regard to their requirements. They are also required to monitor and follow up the recovery of dues.

Deficit between Revenue Receipts and Revenue Expenditure

859. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gaps between receipts and expenditure has been increasing at much greater rate than estimamted, during the last three years;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to materialise its assurances about bringing down expenditure;

(c) whether any monitoring of expenditure is being done; and

(d) what quantum of reduction in non-Plan expenditure is contemplated to be achieved during 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) Revenue deficits have been higher than estimates of deficit in the last three years. Government is however, keen to contain the deficit at a reasonable level and is taking all possible measures. These include, priortisation of programmes and activities of the Ministries/Departments by adopting Zero Base Budget approach and observance of economy in expenditure. Suitable instructions for containing expenditure to budgeted levels have also been issued and a close watch is being kept on various trends of expenditure with a view to taking corrective action. These intructions apply in particular to non-plan/non-developmental expenditure and their impact will be reflected over a period of years.

Price Rise

860. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that during the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan, Price rise have been unprecedented despite the promise of achieving zero rate of inflation during the Seventh Plan Period;

(b) whether Government have identified the reasons attributable to such spiralling inflation, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to meet the situation?